

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 11 and 18-20 remain in the application. Claims 2-8, 10 and 21 have been cancelled and claims 12-17 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 1, 11 and 18 are in independent form.

First, the disclosure stand objected to because of informalities noted by the Examiner on page 1, line 9 and page 2, line 1. In response, Applicant has amended corresponding paragraphs [0002] and [0004] to incorporate the changes noted by the Examiner as well as correct other typographical errors.

Second, claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, claims 1, 9, 11 and 18 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2-8, 10 and 21 have been cancelled and claims 12-17 are withdrawn.

Third, claims 1-3, 10, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wages (U.S. 3,312,380). Additionally, claims 4 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wages in view of Lippard (U.S. 1,619,142). Still further, claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wages in view of Holcomb (U.S. 587,123).

However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 8, 9, 11 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112 and to include all of the limitations of the

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base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claims 2-7 and allowable claim 8. Claim 9 has been amended to properly depend from amended claim 1. Additionally, allowable claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of claim 1 from which is depended. And finally, independent claim 18 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 21.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment of the above fees associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate copy of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin W. Asher', written over a horizontal line.

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